

RECORDS OF ONCHIDIIDÆ (MOLLUSCA,
GASTROPODA) FROM VICTORIA.

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Plate 14.

These notes record two species of Onchidiidæ from the Victorian coast, and give some observations regarding their habitat and habits.

The family Onchidiidæ is chiefly a tropical and sub-tropical one (Pacific and Indian Oceans), though a few species straggle into the temperate zones of both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. From the latter, six species have been recorded from New Zealand by Powell (3), one of which, *Onchidella patelloides* (Q. and G.) has also been taken in Tasmania by Bretnall (1). Until recently (2), no records of Victorian Onchidiidæ had been published, but within the last two years, the National Museum has collected examples of two species within the State.

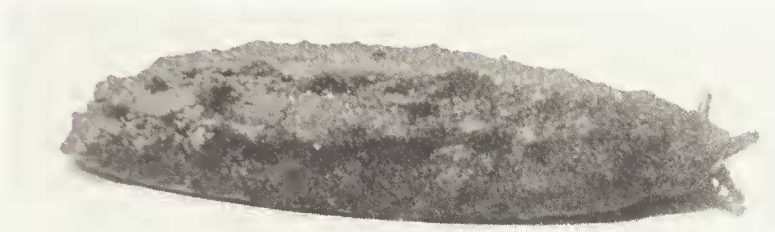
Onchidina australis Semper, 1882.

Onchidina australis Semper. Reis. im Arch. Phil., III. Landmoll., VI., 1882, p. 287.

In February 1946, specimens of this species were collected by the author at Wingan Inlet, East Gippsland. The upper shores of the Inlet are estuarine mud flats with typical flora. The *Onchidina* were found about thirty feet above high tide mark feeding on *Tetragonia expansa* Murr.; the colony consisted of some hundreds of individuals. They were strictly nocturnal, feeding only at night, retiring during the day under bark, driftwood, or other debris.

On a second visit made to the Inlet in June 1946 it was found that the *Tetragonia* had died down, and that no *Onchidina* were in its immediate vicinity. However, on turning over partly submerged logs on adjacent open mud flats, the animals were seen to be hibernating on the damp undersides of the logs or burrowing into the mud beneath.

Specimens kept in a vivarium at the National Museum are strictly nocturnal, retiring to their burrows or under debris during the day. This confirms the field observations noted above.



Onchidina australis Semper. Wingan Inlet, Victoria.
Dorsal view x $1\frac{1}{2}$.



Onchidina australis Semper. Wingan Inlet, Victoria.
Ventral view x $1\frac{1}{2}$.



Onchidella patelloides (Q. and G.). San Remo, Westernport, Victoria.
Dorsal view x $1\frac{1}{2}$. (Left.)
Ventral view x $1\frac{1}{2}$. (Right.)

Onchidella patelloides (Q. and G., 1832).

Onchidium patelloides Quoy and Gaimard, *Voy. de l'Astrolabe*.
Zool. II, p. 212, 1832.

This species has recently been recorded from Lorne, Victoria, by Dakin (2). The Museum has specimens collected by the author from Point Addis and San Remo, and from Mrs. G. Van Rompaey, who collected them at Wye River (also on the Otway Coast), and at San Remo, in 1941.

Onchidella patelloides is marine and differs from *Onchidina* in respect to its habitat. It is a rock dweller, found attached to the underside of loose rock, and in crevices of rocky shore platforms. In April, the Point Addis specimens were found at low tide mark, which suggests that they are submerged always at that time of the year.

Some observations on the anatomy of these two species will be described in a later paper.

REFERENCES.

1. Bretnall, R. W. Onchidiidæ from Australia and the South-Western Pacific Islands. *Rec. Aust. Mus.* XII, pp. 303-328, 1919.
2. Dakin, W. J. The True Sea-slug—*Onchidium*. *Aust. Mus. Mag.* IV, No. 4, pp. 141-144, 1947.
3. Powell, A. W. B. *The Shellfish of New Zealand*, p. 97, 1946.